

Applicant has claimed priority for the present application based on Japanese patent application No. 2002-311935 filed October 25, 2002, which predates the May 27, 2003 filing date of the Hayakawa application. However, the Examiner has indicated that Applicant cannot rely on such claimed priority absent an English translation of the Japanese patent application being made of record in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.55. In response, Applicant has enclosed herewith a certified copy of the English translation of Japanese patent application No. 2002-311935 submitted for the record in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.55.

Applicant respectfully submits that given the October 25, 2002 filing date of the Japanese patent application predating that of Hayakawa, Hayakawa cannot be considered to be prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and therefore, the claimed invention patentably defines over Hayakawa. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests expeditious allowance of the present application.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently

Appin. No. 10/693,692
Response dated December 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated July 5, 2005

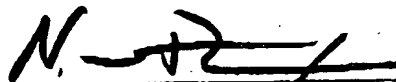
pertinent to warrant their applications against any of
applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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